

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO USIA WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3208

ANCONSUL HONG KONG 4484

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

UNCLAS TAIPEI 6322

USIAC

FOR: IOP/MEDIA REACTION: IEA

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION REPORT

1. SUMMARY - SENATOR HIRAM FONG'S TAIWAN VISIT RECEIVING HEAVY COVERAGE ALL MEDIA. INFLUENTIAL CHINA TIMES QUOTED SENATOR SAYING HE WOULD MENTION TO SECRETARY KISSINGER TAIPEI'S HOPE FOR A KISSINGER VISIT. TIMES TERMED FONG MOST APPROPRIATE PERSON TO PROMOTE SINO-AMERICAN COMMUNICATION AND COOPERATION. END SUMMARY.

2. SENATOR FONG'S OCTOBER 13 ARRIVAL AND SUBSEQUENT ACTIVITIES RECEIVED HEAVY FRONTPAGE TREATMENT ALL MAJOR PAPERS WITH PHOTOS AND BIOGRAPHIC SKETCH IN OFFICIAL KMT CENTRAL DAILY NEWS. ALSO PROMINENT TELEVISION AND RADIO COVERAGE. MEDIA STRESSED TWO SCHEDULED MEETINGS WITH PREMIER CHIANG AND HIS VISITS TO ROC MILITARY AND INDUSTRIAL INSTALLATIONS IN SOUTHERN TAIWAN.

3. INFLUENTIAL CHINA TIMES (280,000) QUOTED SENATOR SAYING UNCLASSIFIED

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HE WILL MENTION TO SECRETARY KISSINGER TAIPEI HOPES FOR

KISSINGER VISIT. SEVERAL PAPERS SAID VISIT HELD SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE BECAUSE OF SENATOR'S RECENT VISIT TO PRC. CHINA TIMES BELIEVED THAT ROC VISIT WOULD: (1) INCREASE HIS APPRECIATION OF THE DIFFERING SOCIAL SYSTEMS OF ROC AND PRC, AS WELL AS IMPORTANCE OF ROC'S EXISTENCE AND VALUE OF ITS ECONOMIC PROGRESS; (2) HELP SENATOR APPRECIATE THE BASIC, OPPOSING POLARIZED POSITIONS AND ATTITUDES OF ROC AND PRC.

4. CHINA TIMES ADVISED SENATOR THAT (1) THERE IS CONTRADICTION IN U.S. POLICY OF MAINTAINING FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH AND TREATY COMMITMENTS TO ROC WHILE SEEKING NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH PEKING; (2) IN UPHOLDING PRICIPLES OF SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE U.S. SHOULD DISCLAIM SO-CALLED TAIWAN ISSUE WHICH, ALONG WITH MAINLAND CHINA ISSUE, IS MERELY A PORTION OF OVERALL CHINA PROBLEM; (3) IN DEVELOPING INEVITABLE ECONOMIC AND TRADE RELATIONS WITH PEKING, U.S. SHOULD AVOID HELPING TIGHTEN COMMUNIST SHACKLES OVER MAINLAND (4) SINCE EXISTING TAIPEI-WASHINGTON RELATIONS HAVE NOT INTERFERED WITH U.S. EFFORTS TO LESSEN HOSTILE RELATIONS WITH PEKING, THEN PRESENT WASHINGTON-PEKING RELATIONS SHOULD NOT INTERFERE WITH TAIPEI-WASHINGTON RELATIONSHIPS. TIMES EMPHASIZED THAT SENATOR IS MOST APPROPRIATE PERSON TO HELP PROMOTE SINO-AMERICAN COMMUNICATIONS AND COOPERATION.

5. ENGLISH-LANGUAGE CHINA NEWS, WHICH OFTEN REFLECTS OFFICIAL THINKING, NOTED THAT SENATOR FONG WAS "NOT IMPRESSED" WITH PRC AND "FOUND THE MAINLAND BACKWARD AND POOR. HE SAW NO PROSPECT OR REASON FOR U.S. DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE PEIPING REGIME." NOTING THAT FONG WAS AWARE OF OVERSEAS CHINESE ATTITUDES, PAPER CONCLUDED: "... WHEN HE ADDS TAIWAN AND MAINLAND REALITIES TO THE THINKING AND LEANINGS OF CHINESE WHO ARE FREE TO CHOOSE EITHER OR NEITHER, HE WILL BE ABLE TO JUDGE WHERE AMERICAN INTEREST LIES AND WHAT IS BEST FOR CHINESE EVERYWHERE. WE WOULD WELCOME HIS HELP IN THE FREE CHINESE CAUSE BUT WE DO NOT ASK IT. HIRAM FONG WILL BEST SERVE HIS COUNTRY AND HIS RACE BY FINDING OUT THE TRUTH AND TELLING IT AS IT IS."

CLARKE

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